

In June, 1944, a listing of 19 prospective candidates for the Second Group, ... received from CALIXTO's Arturo (as far as I know the latter got these names from MAXIMILIA A. - former chairman of the Central Union of the Latvian Students; now in Boston, Mass.). Among these candidates was one BERKINS E., living at 2034 W. Ontario St., Philadelphia 40, Pa.; 26 years old then.

On 3 April, 1957, while trying to locate this BERKINS, I found one BERKINS Edg., living at 5902 W. Camac, phone Livonia 8-7584, in the telephone directory of Phila., Pa. Subsequently I made a phone call to this address from the 30th St. RA Station in Phila. at 1545. A voice of an elderly woman (presumably the mother of E.B.) was answering in Latvian on my call, told me that Edgars BERKINS will be home from work around 1800 and asked who is calling. I told her that my name is KLUKINS, that I am from Washington, D.C., where I am employed by the Army and that I have some urgent matter to talk over with BERKINS. The a/woman asked then whether BERKINS would have to be drafted in the Army. I denied this and told her that I need only some info about a person BERKINS supposedly knows. Then this woman suggested that I make a phone call to the place of work of BERKINS and gave me the following phone number: Michigan 4-8520, Ext. 227. Before that I had asked her whether this BERKINS is the right person, i.e. whether they had formerly lived at 2034 W. Ontario St. in Phila. - the woman replied that this was the case.

About five minutes later I made another phone call from the same station to Edgars BERKINS' place of work. The switchboard operator asked me whether the number I want is located in the main building. Since I did not know it, she asked me for the name of the person I want to talk with and then I was connected with E.B. - I repeated my request, introducing myself as above. E.B. answered that he is willing to meet me and that it would be more convenient for him if I could come to his home at 1900 - he explained how I could reach his home by the subway from the City Hall; when I proposed that I could meet him at his place of work in order to save time he replied that it is still further from the City Hall and it would not be convenient for me to get there. He wanted to know more about the matter I intend to discuss with him but I replied that it would not be proper to talk it over by phone. During this talk E.B. showed no suspicious attitude, was co-operative and positive in his talk.

At 1800 I left the apartment of my wife, telling her that I have some business to accomplish in North Philadelphia and that I will be back around 10 P.M. First I went by taxi cab to the City Hall, then by subway (Broad Street line) to the station before the one told by E.B. There I took a taxi cab again and went directly to the address of E.B. where I arrived precisely at 1900.

When I rang the bell, a young girl of ab. 15 years, appeared at the front door. She did not let me in but asked who I am and who I want to talk. I answered that my name is KLUKINS and that I want to talk to Edgars BERKINS. Then this girl, who appeared to be quite excited, asked that I should show her my official documents. I showed her my ID card through the glass of the front door (the girl did not even open the door). Since this card bears my true name, I was careful not to show it in such a manner that the girl would be able to read it, in order not to confuse her still more. When this girl asked me to show it for a closer inspection I objected, telling her that I want to speak with E.B., not her, and that I am trying to identify myself to the latter. The girl seemed to be rather angry about this but nevertheless she went inside and E.B. appeared. He let me in and we ... sitting

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When I left from the entrance, the girl went upstairs ( it was a two-storey building ). I observed that E.B., too, was rather jittery and full of suspicions. I apologise for the situation I had created, showed him the a/n HX card. After having inspected it E.B. said that now he begins to understand better my business and asked me what I want from him. I emphasized that it is a confidential matter and because of that I have to proceed very cautiously - if he wonders about the discrepancies because of my name ( E.B. did not ask me why I had used another name during the phone call ), I am going to explain him all but I want to do it in private and not here where his relatives are apparently very excited and probably listening to our talk. In order to calm him down and to stress the confidential nature of our discussions I showed him the Secrecy Agreement and remarked that he would have to sign it at the end of our talk. To this a voice of an elderly woman ( presumably the same who had talked to me during the first phone call ) from an adjacent room urged E.B. not to sign anything. I told E.B. that this demonstrates clearly that under such circumstances it is impossible to reveal to him the matter I came to talk over. E.B., however, asked some unpertinent questions and I had the feeling that he is waiting for somebody.

About five minutes after I had entered the house, a policeman in uniform ( having the badge # 4251 ) came in the house - it was obvious that E.B. or his relatives had summoned him. E.B. told the policeman that he suspects me and asks to investigate who I really am. The policeman asked for my documents and I showed him my Alien Registration Card. I don't remember whether the policeman asked me if I am working for the Army and where are my Army credentials ( these questions were asked later at the police precinct ) - in any case he asked me whether I would be willing to come with him to his office to clear the matter up. I had no objections and all three of us went in the police car - which was parked in front of the house - to the police precinct. During this ride E.B., who sat beside me, asked many questions: from what part of Latvia I am; do I have my family here; how did I get a job with the Army; how was it possible for me to get such job. By now it was clear to me that E.B. is convinced that I am a very skillful Soviet agent. I saw also that he is very excited about this case and it would be unwise to try to explain to him who I am and what is my business. Therefore I answered very shortly and evasively to all of his questions. I told him also that he had been very unwise in rushing the things - that all what I needed was five more minutes in private to explain him this situation but now it will take hours. When I offered him a cigarette to calm him down, he refused by telling that he is too nervous to become a smoker.

At the police precinct the a/n policeman reported in short the circumstances to his colleagues on duty. Two of them questioned me for a while: asked my name, address - which I gave - and whether I am working for the Army as I had told E.B. I answered positively but when they asked my Army credentials I told that I have none. Instead of this I told them the name of my superior at the Pentagon, Col. Carl GOLIAK, and started to give him phone number but did not recall it correctly therefore I took out of my pocket the slip of paper with all the data I had received from JCHW before my previous recording trip in December, 1956. The policeman remarked that anybody might have such data and, besides, it is too late now to make a phone call to the Pentagon and to verify my story. Then the policeman, who had detained me, mentioned that I have a credential from the Army which I previously had showed E.B. I agreed but remarked that my instructions are such that under circumstances such as these I am not supposed to show this card to anybody. It was apparent that this answer made the policeman very dissatisfied and I saw that from now on I will be in some trouble but nevertheless I stuck to my instructions and refused to show the a/n card. Then a police lieutenant appeared, asked shortly about the same questions with the same results. Thereupon he ordered the policeman, who had detained me, to drive me and E.B. to another office.

At 1245 we left in the 39th Police Precinct at 2nd and Hunting (Road 7) and went to the office of North West Detective Division. The accompanying policeman made a short report to the chief there, submitted to him my Alien Registration Card and the paper clip with the names and phones of my superiors at Pentagon. Then this chief interrogated first S.B. in an adjacent room, later on. I repeated my story, refused to show my Army credentials and requested that he contacts my superiors at the Pentagon. This chief tried for a while to intimidate me, telling that he is the boss here and I have to show all my documents otherwise he would order to search me. I told him that I am very sorry about the troubles I am creating but that I have my orders and I would not like being searched. Then this chief introduced me to some detective who would handle my case (later this officer told me his name - STRASS, Sam). The latter tried to convince me that I must legitimate myself and show him the other card which I had showed S.B. because it is no sense to show it to S.B. and not to police. I agreed that my instructions apparently are wrong but that I am not in the position to act otherwise. The chief became rather angry, remarked that this is American police and not KGB but if I am going to refuse their request I am going to have it the "hard way". Afterwards this chief did not participate in the interrogation - it was done solely by a/m STRASS. When the latter asked me to show him the document which S.B. had seen and should have signed, I decided to let him see it, hoping that it might convince him that I am really from some Government agency. However, it was useless - STRASS told me that this document does not show my place of work.

Around 2030 I told STRASS that understood his difficulties to get in touch with my office but that I could make one phone call to Washington, D.C. which might fix the things. STRASS refused to allow me to phone, telling that they are just now checking my papers with the FBI - if I would be on the special listing of the FBI he would release me. Shortly thereafter he told me that my name is not in this listing and that now he is going to contact the FBI office in the area since I pretend to be working for the Army.

Around 2100 STRASS asked me when I had come to Washington, D.C. - then I replied that I arrived here yesterday - where I spent last night. I answered that I was in the apartment of my wife; he asked the address and phone number there and made a phone call immediately from the room where S.B. was sitting. When I heard this I entered this room and objected that S.B. is present at this call but STRASS sent me back quite angrily.

As my wife told me later, STRASS had first asked her whether she knew where her husband is (she had refused to answer at first without knowing who is calling); then had told her that there are difficulties to identify me (she had thought for a moment that I am dead!) and that I am too concerned about my job - could she tell him where I am working and who is my superior. My wife had given him then the name and phone number of Captain GILLER but had refused to answer as to the kind of job I am doing, asking GILLER to come straight to her apartment and to identify himself.

After this phone call STRASS told me that some part of my story is checked and changed his attitude toward me. He permitted to make a phone call to my wife and to talk her down. I told her that I am still in the city and that I hope to be home in a couple hours. Around 2130 I phoned my wife again and asked her to phone Mr. GILLER, tell him my situation and ask for my release due to the late hour when my superiors cannot be reached directly.

Around 2200 a man from the Army Counter Intelligence Corps appeared, showed his credentials (STRASS told me later that his name is Charles MILLER), took me in a corner and asked to explain my business; then he showed him my Army credentials since I had told that I am employed by the Army. He asked for my FBI card and he asked to make a transcript of it since he had not seen such card before and was not familiar with such documents. He wrote down the small print on the back of this card. Then I explained to him that I was not permitted to show this card to the police and/or FBI and asked his assistance in the things.

First my superior, Col. Carl X. H. ...  
 Ch. H. promised to do what he can. He asked me to ...  
 tion business, i.e. to interrogate E.B. about some person. I ...  
 not the case - that I am working for some special project. ...  
 Col. COLLIER assigned me to do this - I replied that Col. COLLIER ...  
 mission. I told him also that meanwhile I had already made a phone ...  
 via my wife and that I hope that this thing will be cleared up soon. Ch. H. ...  
 me at what time exactly I had made this call to my wife and at what time ...  
 tell me that she had made the phone call to Washington. Then Ch. H. went to ...  
 with E.B. After a while he came back and asked me whether I would show him ...  
 document E.B. would have to sign and whether this document is classified. ...  
 that I was told that it is classified but since I had showed it already ...  
 the police I would not mind to show it to him either. When having read it, ...  
 asked whether he could keep it. When I said that I would not like it, he ...  
 that then he would have to transcribe it - so I let keep it him.  
 After a while Ch. H. told me that he is trying to clear this thing up through ...  
 in Washington and that it might take two hours. He expressed also his opinion ...  
 it would have been better that I would have showed the HX card the police ...  
 my instructions might not have been proper.  
 Around 2215 I called my wife again and she told me that she had talked with ...  
 by phone and that the letter is going to do something to help me out.  
 At 2230 Ch. H., before leaving for his office, told me that he has ordered E.B. ...  
 keep this case in utmost confidence until further orders. He said also that I ...  
 had asked him whether I am going to meet E.B. again and explain my mission. ...  
 answered that it might be done later - that now I have to report this case ...  
 superiors and they will decide whether or not to proceed in this case. Ch. H. ...  
 me also that E.B. insists to hear from Ch. H. or other authorities that I have ...  
 visited him on legitimate business, that I am really employed by some Government ...  
 agency - Ch. H. had promised to do it.  
 During the following two hours STRASS had some casual talk with me, asked about ...  
 the Commission, my homeland but did not try to get some more info out of me.  
 He promised to me that his report about this case will be very short without ...  
 details - only that each and each had been detained upon the request of I.B. ...  
 ground of suspicion.  
 At 0030 STRASS made a phone call to Ch. H. and told the latter that he is ...  
 release me home since it is known where I am going to spend the night and ...  
 use to hold me longer here. The latter apparently agreed. STRASS wrote ...  
 notice about me and gave it to some other officer on duty. When I asked how ...  
 got to the nearest subway station, STRASS offered to take me to it by his ...  
 he went home himself.  
 Around 0150 I arrived in the apartment of my wife. Around 0215 STRASS called ...  
 Washington and told me that some steps have been undertaken there to get ...  
 of this trouble.

While waiting at the North West G.I.B. I got by chance the Philadelphia D. ...  
 issue of 4 April and there I found in the edition of the daily horoscope the ...  
 following sentence: "Some born on Sunday (I am such one) for Friday."  
 "Avoid projects save ... right today".  
 Un fortunately - I read it too late.